

notice of receipt of the petition. New applications involving the site may be filed on the next business day.

(d) Exemptions may be surrendered only upon fulfillment by the exemption holder of such obligations under the exemption as the Commission may prescribe and, if construction has begun, upon such conditions with respect to the disposition of such project works and restoration of project lands as may be determined by the Commission and the Federal and state fish and wildlife agencies.

(e) Where occupancy of federal lands or reservations has been permitted by a Federal agency having supervision over such lands, the exemption holder must concurrently notify that agency of the petition to surrender and of the steps that will be taken to restore the affected U.S. lands or reservations.

[Order 413, 50 FR 11688, Mar. 25, 1985, as amended by Order 800, 79 FR 59111, Oct. 1, 2014]

§4.103 General provisions for case-specific exemption.

(a) *Exemptible projects.* Subject to the provisions in paragraph (b) of this section, §4.31(c), and §§4.105 and 4.106, the Commission may exempt on a case-specific basis any small hydroelectric power project from all or part of Part I of the Act, including licensing requirements. Any applications for exemption for a project shall conform to the requirements of §§4.107 or 4.108, as applicable.

(b) *Limitation for licensed water power project.* The Commission will not accept for filing an application for exemption from licensing for any project that is only part of a licensed water power project.

(c) *Waiver.* In applying for case-specific exemption from licensing, a qualified exemption applicant may petition under §385.207 of this chapter for waiver of any specific provision of §§4.102 through 4.107. The Commission will grant a waiver only if consistent with section 408 of the Energy Security Act of 1980.

[Order 413, 50 FR 11688, Mar. 25, 1985, as amended by Order 503, 53 FR 36568, Sept. 21, 1988]

§4.104 Amendment of exemption.

(a) An exemption holder must construct and operate its project as described in the exemption application approved by the Commission or its delegate.

(b) If an exemption holder desires to change the design, location, method of construction or operation of its project, it must first notify the appropriate Federal and state fish and wildlife agencies and inform them in writing of the changes it intends to implement. If these agencies determine that the changes would not cause the project to violate the terms and conditions imposed by the agencies, and if the changes would not materially alter the design, location, method of construction or operation of the project, the exemption holder may implement the changes. If any of these agencies determines that the changes would cause the project to violate the terms and conditions imposed by that agency, or if the changes would materially alter the design, location, method of construction or the operation of the project works, the exemption holder may not implement the changes without first acquiring authorization from the Commission to amend its exemption or acquiring a license for the project works that authorizes the project, as changed.

(c) An application to amend an exemption may be filed only by the holder of an exemption. An application to amend an exemption will be governed by the Commission's regulations governing applications for exemption. The Commission will not accept applications in competition with an application to amend an exemption, unless the Director of the Office of Energy Projects determines that it is in the public interest to do so.

[Order 413, 50 FR 11688, Mar. 25, 1985, as amended by Order 699, 72 FR 45324, Aug. 14, 2007]

§4.105 Action on exemption applications.

(a) *Exemption from provisions other than licensing.* An application for exemption of a small hydroelectric power project from provisions of Part I of the Act other than the licensing requirement will be processed and considered

as part of the related application for license or amendment of license.

(b)(1) *Consultation.* The Commission will circulate a notice of application for exemption from licensing to interested agencies and Indian tribes at the time the applicant is notified that the application is accepted for filing.

(2) *Non-standard terms and conditions.* In approving any application for exemption from licensing, the Commission may prescribe terms or conditions in addition to those set forth in § 4.106 in order to:

- (i) Protect the quality or quantity of the related water supply;
- (ii) Otherwise protect life, health, or property;
- (iii) Avoid or mitigate adverse environmental impact; or
- (iv) Better conserve, develop, or utilize in the public interest the water resources of the region.

(Energy Security Act of 1980, Pub. L. 96-294, 94 Stat. 611; Federal Power Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 792-828c); Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2601-2645); and the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101-7352); E.O. 12009, 3 CFR 142 (1978))

[Order 106, 45 FR 76123, Nov. 18, 1980, as amended by Order 202, 47 FR 4246, Jan. 29, 1982; Order 413, 50 FR 11688, Mar. 25, 1985; Order 533, 56 FR 23154, May 20, 1991]

§ 4.106 Standard terms and conditions of case-specific exemption from licensing.

Any case-specific exemption from licensing granted for a small hydroelectric power project is subject to the following standard terms and conditions:

(a) *Article 1.* The Commission reserves the right to conduct investigations under sections 4(g), 306, 307, and 311 of the Federal Power Act with respect to any acts, complaints, facts, conditions, practices, or other matters related to the construction, operation, or maintenance of the exempt project. If any term or condition of the exemption is violated, the Commission may revoke the exemption, issue a suitable order under section 4(g) of the Federal Power Act, or take appropriate action for enforcement, forfeiture, or penalties under Part III of the Federal Power Act.

(b) *Article 2.* The construction, operation, and maintenance of the exempt project must comply with any terms and conditions that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and any state fish and wildlife agencies have determined are appropriate to prevent loss of, or damage to, fish or wildlife resources or otherwise to carry out the purposes of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as specified in exhibit E of the application for exemption from licensing or in the comments submitted in response to the notice of exemption application.

(c) *Article 3.* The Commission may revoke this exemption if actual construction of any proposed generating facilities has not begun within two years or has not been completed within four years from the date on which this exemption was granted. If an exemption is revoked under this article, the Commission will not accept from the prior exemption holder a subsequent application for exemption from licensing for the same project within two years of the revocation.

(d) *Article 4.* This exemption is subject to the navigation servitude of the United States if the project is located on navigable waters of the United States.

(e) *Article 5.* This exemption does not confer any right to use or occupy any Federal lands that may be necessary for the development or operation of the project. Any right to use or occupy any Federal lands for those purposes must be obtained from the administering Federal land agencies. The Commission may accept a license application submitted by any qualified license applicant and revoke this exemption, if any necessary right to use or occupy Federal lands for those purposes has not been obtained within one year from the date on which this exemption was granted.

(f) *Article 6.* In order to best develop, conserve, and utilize in the public interest the water resources of the region, the Commission may require that the exempt facilities be modified in structure or operation or may revoke this exemption.